



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-EGOV**

Operating Unit on Policy-Driven  
Electronic Governance

# Aide-Mémoire

## Expert Group Meeting on Governance, Digitization and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Guimarães, Portugal

7-8 December 2015

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# 1. Background

Following years of mounting evidence that governance is critical to development and notable absence of political agreement to include governance in the Millennium Development Goals framework, the recently approved 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda devotes one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) entirely to this issue. SDG 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” covers a very wide space of issues from violence, corruption, rule of law and access to justice, to inclusive and participatory decision-making, access to information, and effective, transparent and accountable institutions. The goal impacts virtually all other goals but with the largest number of 12 targets and related conceptual, methodological and political challenges, how exactly the goal will be measured is likely to be hotly contested.

Among the issues is how governance is responding to the global digitization trend in terms of regulating the digital space, and transforming traditional governance institutions and government-citizen relationships through digital technology. This is a critical issue given the scale and direction of the trend: an increasing share of cultural, political, economic and other activities taking place in the digital space risk amplifying existing problems of division, inequity, exclusion, insecurity, imbalance of power, and others, and undermining progress not only on SDG16 but other SDGs. While it is clear that policymakers and governments cannot leave the digital space unattended, a question is how exactly should the core functions of government – providing public services and infrastructure, formulating and implementing public policies, maintaining social order and security, operating social programs, and promoting economic growth – be performed in both physical and digital worlds, and how to address the adverse effects of the global digitization trend on governance.

Examples of how digitization can support governance for Sustainable Development include the use of: mobile technology to provide access to information and services to unserved or underserved populations, cloud computing to address inequalities in public service provision across different territories, social media to advance inclusion and participation in political and civil affairs, open government data to release economic and social potential of government-collected data, and interoperability solutions to connect government agencies and enable whole-of-government performance. Examples of how digitization can adversely affect governance for Sustainable Development include: different levels of access to digital technology further increasing existing disparities between high and low-income countries, different ability to benefit from access to digital content increasing social inequality, attacks against systems, penetration of online financial services and other forms of cybercrime, and surveillance of online activity, privacy breaches and loss of trust in governance institutions.

## 2. Meeting

### 2.1. Objectives

This Expert Group Meeting (EGM) will gather a small group of leading researchers and policymakers to discuss how four selected targets under SDG16 – 16.5, 16.6, 16.7 and 16.10 could be conceptualized and measured to utilize the potential (and address adverse impact) of digitization on governance for Sustainable Development.

SDG16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
SDG16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
SDG16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
SDG16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

The EGM will also consider how “Administrative Burden Reduction” and “Context-Specific Public Service Delivery” – two strategies to achieve SDG16.6 “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” could be supported by digital technology.

EGOV4ABR	Electronic Governance for Administrative Burden Reduction
	Administrative burden – the costs on businesses, citizens and the administration itself of complying with government procedures and regulations – tends to increase with more data requested to track the impact of policy decisions, ensure policy coherence and adapt policy responses to local settings. The analysis will focus on the benefits, strategies and risks of pursuing Administrative Burden Reduction through technology-enabled and context-specific governance.
EGOV4PSD	Electronic Governance for Context-Specific Public Service Delivery
	Facing conflicting pressures for efficiency and inclusion, Public Service Delivery (PSD) is increasingly digitized, but the impact of digitization on PSD systems is not well understood. One reason is the influence of various extraneous factors, such as the governance mechanisms underpinning PSD systems, and wide variations between national, local and sectorial contexts. The sub-group will focus on the benefits, strategies and risks of pursuing PSD through technology-enabled and context-specific governance.

## 2.2. Program

6 DECEMBER 2015, SUNDAY				
19:30 – 21:00	Evening reception			
7 DECEMBER 2015, MONDAY				
TIME	PLENARY/CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome			
09:05 – 09:15	Self-introductions			
09:15 – 09:30	Introduction to the EGM Day 1 and SDG16			
	Plenary target reviews:			
09:30 – 09:45	What do we know about SDG16.5?			
09:45 – 10:00	What do we know about SDG16.6?			
10:00 – 10:15	What do we know about SDG16.7?			
10:15 – 10:30	What do we know about SDG16.10?			
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break			
	Group discussions on the contribution of Digital Government to SDG 16 (initiatives, impact, measures):			
10:45 – 11:45	SDG16.5	SDG16.6	SDG16.7	SDG16.10
11:45 – 12:45	SDG16.6	SDG16.7	SDG16.10	SDG16.5
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 – 15:00	SDG16.7	SDG16.10	SDG16.5	SDG16.6
15:00 – 16:00	SDG16.10	SDG16.5	SDG16.6	SDG16.7
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee break			
	Report of group discussions and plenary discussion on			
16:15 – 16:45	How can Digital Government contribute to SDG16.5?			
16:45 – 17:15	How can Digital Government contribute to SDG16.6?			
17:15 – 17:45	How can Digital Government contribute to SDG16.7?			
17:45 – 18:15	How can Digital Government contribute to SDG16.10?			
18:15 – 18:30	Communique			
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner			

8 DECEMBER 2015, TUESDAY				
TIME	PLENARY/CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
09:00 – 09:05	Introduction to the EGM Day 2			
	Plenary target reviews:			
09:05 – 09:25	What do we know about ABR?			
09:25 – 09:45	What do we know about PSD?			
	Group discussions on the contribution of Digital Government to ABR/PSD (initiatives, impact, measures):			
09:45 – 10:45	ABR	ABR	PSD	PSD
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break			
11:00 – 12:00	ABR	ABR	PSD	PSD
12:00 – 13:00	PSD	PSD	ABR	ABR
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch			
14:30 – 15:30	PSD	PSD	ABR	ABR
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break			
	Report of group discussions and plenary discussion on:			
15:45 – 16:15	How can Digital Government contribute to ABR?			
16:15 – 16:45	How can Digital Government contribute to PSD?			
16:45 – 17:00	Communique			

### 2.3. Outcome

The outcome report of the EGM “Governance, Digitization and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda” will be prepared based on the rapporteur notes, officially released by UNU-EGOV, and disseminated throughout the UN system and beyond.

## 2.4. Participants

1. Jean-Pierre Auffret, Professor, George Mason University, USA
2. Luis Barbosa, Associate Professor, University of Minho and Associate Adjunct Professor, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
3. John Bertot, Professor, University of Maryland, USA
4. João Alvaro Carvalho, Professor, University of Minho and Adjunct Professor, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
5. Radha Chauhan, Deputy Director General, Unique Identification Authority of India, Government of India
6. Mário Parra Da Silva, UN Global Compact, Portuguese Representative, Portugal
7. Luis de Sousa, Professor at Aveiro University, Portugal, and Chairman of Transparency International Portugal
8. Elsa Estevez, Senior Academic Programme Officer, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
9. Sara Fernandes, PhD Fellow, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
10. Nagy Hanna, Founding Member, Digital Dividends for All, USA
11. Paul Hector, Programme Specialist, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, France
12. Tomasz Janowski, Head, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
13. Edwin Lau, Division Head, Reform of the Public Sector, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD, France
14. Maria Manuel Leitão Marques, Minister for the Presidency and for Administrative Modernization, Portugal
15. Nuno Lopes, Postdoctoral Fellow, UNU-EGOV
16. Jeremy Millard, Chief Policy Advisor at the Danish Technological Institute, Denmark
17. Bronisław Misztal, Ambassador of Poland to Portugal, Poland
18. Alejandra Naser, Information Technology Specialist, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile
19. Pardo, Theresa, Director, Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany, State University of New York, USA
20. Gitanjali Sah, Policy Analyst, WSIS, ITU, Switzerland
21. Manuel Ricou, Member of Governing Board, Agency for Administrative Modernization, Portugal
22. Delfina Sa Soares, Assistant Professor, University of Minho and Assistant Adjunct Professor, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
23. Antonio Tavares, Associate Professor, University of Minho and Associate Adjunct Professor, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
24. João Ricardo Vasconcelos, Head of the Innovation and International Relations Unit, Agency for Administrative Modernization, Portugal
25. Linda Veiga, Associate Professor, University of Minho and Associate Adjunct Professor, UNU-EGOV, Portugal
26. Luis Vidigal, Independent Consultant on e-Government and IT Governance, Portugal

## 3. Logistics

### 3.1. Location

The EGM will take place in the historical city of Guimarães, located in the north of Portugal. Established in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the city is considered “the cradle of the Portuguese nationality” due to its role in the foundation of the country. The EGM venue is the Couros Campus of the University of Minho, which also hosts the premises of UNU-EGOV. The campus is located very close to the historical city centre, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001. Due to an immense investment in culture and patrimony, Guimarães attained a special place within the world of art and performance. As European Culture Capital in 2012 and European Youth Capital in 2013, Guimarães established itself as a contemporary territory with a vast tradition and cultural heritage, where the visitor can feel the historic presence established many centuries ago by the first Portuguese.

### 3.2. Visitor Information

Practical visitor information is included below.

Getting to Guimarães	Porto International Airport, also called Airport Francisco Sá Carneiro, the main airport in northern Portugal and the closest to the city of Guimarães. Porto is also occasionally known as <i>Oporto</i> in English. The airport is located 40 km from Guimarães and it is served by all major European airlines. Taxi driver will be waiting you with your name card in the arrival hall, and will take you directly to your hotel.
Accommodation	Accommodation for all experts of the EGM is booked in “Hotel Fundador”. All rooms have free WIFI internet access, breakfast, and parking place. The walking distance to the EGM venue is 10 minutes.
Weather	The temperature during the day for this time of the year should vary between 8°C and 15°C. There might be heavy rain. For current weather forecasts for Guimarães, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
Currency / ATM	EURO (€). ATM machines are known as “Caixas Multibanco”.
Language	Portuguese
Time Zone	GMT / UTC
Electrical plugs	220 volts with continental 2-pin plugs
Credit cards	The vast majority of credit cards are accepted in Portugal.



Country dial	+351
Emergency dial	112
Internet access	The venue will have free wi-fi internet access. Login details will be provided on site.

### 3.3. Addresses

Venue	UNU-EGOV Campus de Couros, Rua Vila Flor 166, 4810-445 Guimarães
Lunches	Restaurante "Café Oriental" Largo do Toural 11, 4810-427 Guimarães
Dinner	Histórico Restaurante Rua de Valdonas, nº4, Oliveira do Castelo, 4800-476 Guimarães
Reception	Hotel Fundador, "Eleven Bar", 11th floor Av. D. Afonso Henriques, 740, Guimarães, 4810-912,

### 4. Contacts

Logistics	Mario Meira Administrative Officer, UNU-EGOV Email: <a href="mailto:meira@unu.edu">meira@unu.edu</a> Skype: mariomeira_unu-egov Tel: +351 253510858 Mobile: +351 918677840
Program	Mario Peixoto Editorial Assistant Email: <a href="mailto:peixoto@unu.edu">peixoto@unu.edu</a> Skype: mariopeixoto2 Tel: +351 253510858